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Working the LBD

The right accessories will transform your standard little black dress into a glam holiday get-up, like this floral purse/LBD combo rocked by Emma Stone PAGE 12

REGINA metro®
Thursday, November 22, 2012
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The 'unfilmable' makes the leap to Hollywood

This film image released by 20th Century Fox shows Suraj Sharma as Pi Patel in a scene from Life of Pi. PETER SOREL/20TH CENTURY FOX/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Piece of the Pi. Saskatchewan-based Yann Martel is among a growing number of authors seeing their complex work come to life on the big screen

Author Yann Martel GETTY IMAGES

It would appear that labelling a book unfilmable is a sure-fire way to get a filmmaker's attention.

How else to explain the multitude of book-inspired features currently at the multiplex, a good number of them drawn from challenging literary works chock full of the very things popular cinema generally tries to avoid?

This week, Yann Martel's long-considered-unfilmable tale Life of Pi appears in theatres as a 3D spectacle, the painstaking work of Oscar-winning director Ang Lee.

It follows the ambitious adaptations of David Mitchell's literary puzzle Cloud Atlas and Salman Rushdie's magical, historical tale Midnight's Children.

And next month, theatres welcome a big-screen take on J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy-laden The Hobbit while January will see Jack Kerouac's meandering Beat generation novel On the Road.

As film critic and curator Jesse Wente notes: "A book is only unfilmable until someone makes a movie of it."

An explosion of digital movie-making tools has allowed for even more "unfilmable" books — as well as comic books — to hit the big screen, he adds.

"All sorts of what we now are calling populist cinema wasn't possible 20 years ago, or at least wasn't possible in the same way and with the same sort of vision," says Wente.

The computer-generated imagery on display in Life of Pi certainly didn't exist when the book came out in 2001.

It's a big reason its Saskatoon-based author says he had a hard time imagining how a film could be made from his Booker Prize-winning tale, about an Indian boy stranded on a lifeboat with a tiger in the middle of the Pacific.

Plus, so much of the story unfolds through reflection, with the hero Pi struggling with deep philosophical and spiritual questions — hardly the stuff of box-office smashes.

"Those are easy words to write on the page. But how would one bring them to life on the screen?" Martel writes in the forward to the behind-the-scenes book, The Making of Life of Pi.

"The challenge seemed forbidding. Who would be crazy enough to try?"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A look at life off-reserve

A travelling Senate rights committee meets with local First Nations groups in Saskatoon to hear concerns PAGE 2

Grinch steals $2M in toys

Police are investigating a massive theft of toys from a Toronto Salvation Army warehouse PAGE 4

Will Gaza ceasefire last?

That was the question after Israel and Hamas agreed to stop the fighting after eight days of fierce battle PAGE 5

O Christmas tree ornament

Grey — the new neutral — adds a sophisticated air to holiday decor PAGE 15

Conservative senator Patrick Brazeau, member of the Senate Committee on Human Rights, listens to testimony given by FSIN fourth vice-chief Simon Bird at a meeting between the senate committee and local First Nation groups on Wednesday. MORGAN MODJESKI/METRO

Rights of off-reserve aboriginals the focus of Senate meeting

Getting what's theirs.
Human rights committee travelling Western Canada

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

The rights of First Nations people living off reserve was the focus of a meeting held between the Canadian Senate Committee on Human Rights and local First Nation groups Wednesday morning in Saskatoon.

Patrick Brazeau, member of the Committee, said they're travelling across Western Canada collecting this information to try and find out if those who are living off reserve are getting what they're entitled to as First Nations.

"This event is very important because it's one of the first of its kind in Canadian history to actually hear specifically from off-reserve First Nation citizens in terms of their human rights and access to programs and services, and seeing if there are any discrepancies or discrimination that exists," said Brazeau.

"We do know," he continued, "that First Nations people who live off reserve are often discriminated against by their own leaders because of the fact that they chose to move off the reserve."

However, fourth vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Simon Bird said he feels the federal government is trying to find ways to pass off their responsibilities to First Nations living off reserve to other levels of government.

"We need to make sure people understand that our treaty right was never properly implemented," said Bird.

The committee was in Winnipeg prior to Saskatoon and will be stopping in Vancouver next.

Quoted

"I do believe that our treaty rights and our inherent rights have been for too long avoided and neglected."
Vice-chief of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations Simon Bird

Bucks or bales

HayEast kicks off Canadian Western Agribition cash and hay drive

HayEast 2012 kicked off a major corporate and individual fundraising drive at the 2012 Canadian Western Agribition this week in Regina.

Organizers from the general farm groups in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta are asking industry partners for major donations.

And volunteers will be at Agribition appealing for individual donations of cash and hay.

Ontario farmers affected by the summer's drought have requested more than 70,000 bales of hay to sustain livestock through the winter.

Farmers in Western Canada have donated thousands of bales of hay, which began arriving in Ontario in October.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

South Sask. ice

RCMP warn of poor driving conditions

RCMP are warning the public of deteriorating travel conditions in Southern Saskatchewan.

Wednesday's rain produced icy conditions on most highways in the south of the province. Police were kept busy Wednesday responding to traffic accidents due to the conditions.

RCMP are reminding motorists to check with the highway hotline at 888-335-7623 prior to driving in dangerous areas.

METRO

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New liquor laws could be a boon for burlesque

Nudity still prohibited. Changes allow establishments to serve alcohol during strip-tease performances

JANE CAULFIELD
Metro in Saskatoon

The 2010 movie Burlesque has Christina Aguilera belting out the line, "Show me how you burlesque" — which is exactly what Saskatchewan burlesquers are hoping to do more of.

One of the 77 proposed liquor law changes, announced Tuesday, allows establishments to serve alcohol during strip-tease performances. Full nudity is still prohibited.

"This could really open up some doors," said Jackie Latendresse, also known as Headmistress Purr of the Saskatoon Rosebud Burlesque club.

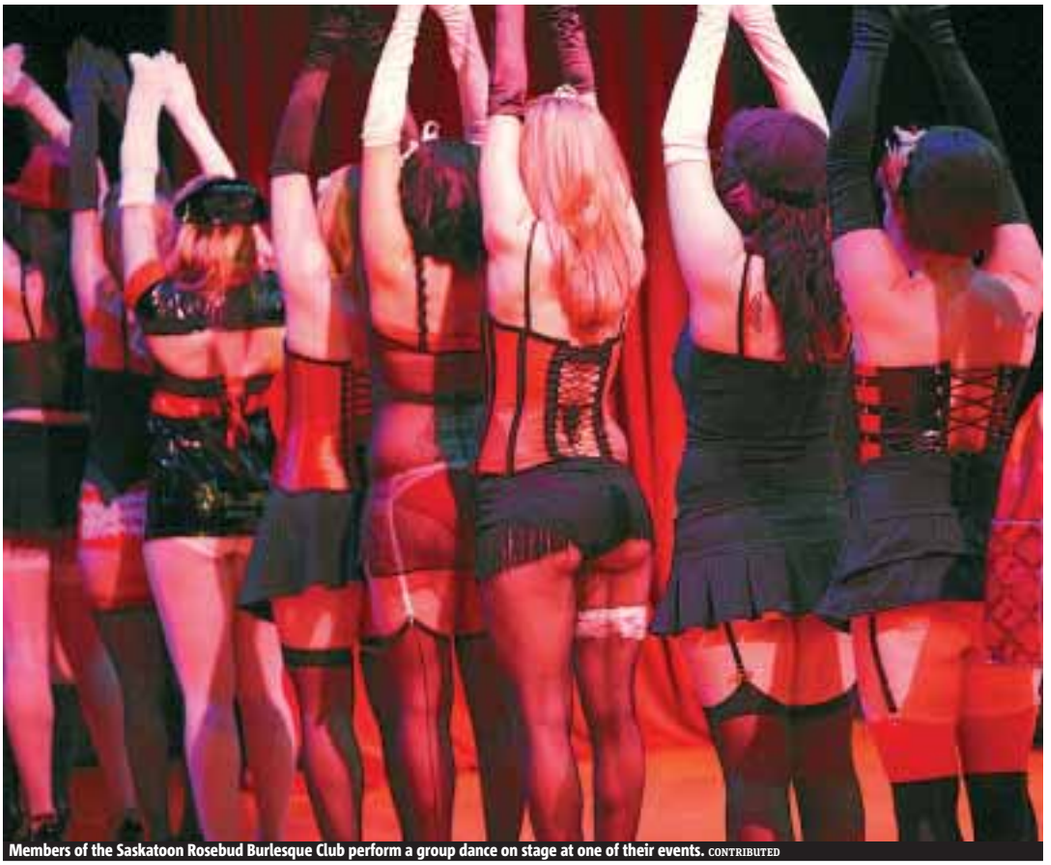
"We get asked to perform at local community events … but haven't been able to show our support because they are often licensed."

Latendresse said this is good news for dance troops in the province because burlesque is more than just women stripping — it's an artistic performance.

"We've been around for nearly seven years now … we've developed a dedicated, solid fan base," she said.

This particular change allows dance troops to perform in new venues, such as casinos, which Latendresse hopes will increase awareness and popularity of the dance form.

"As the community grows, we'll be growing with it," said Latendresse.



Members of the Saskatoon Rosebud Burlesque Club perform a group dance on stage at one of their events. CONTRIBUTED

Quoted

"We hold ourselves to a high standard of entertainment and that's what the public already expects."

Headmistress Purr of the Saskatoon Rosebud Burlesque Club

Burlesque scene

Changes could attract more visitors

Like any other form of dance, burlesque has professional performers who tour across the country.

But according to Headmistress Purr of the Saskatoon Rosebud Burlesque Club, they usually skip Saskatchewan — something she hopes will change with new liquor laws.

"(The change) is really good for developing the Canadian burlesque scene," she said. "Hopefully we will have more visitors come here to perform and lead workshops."

Budget cuts. Province urged to help sick refugees

The NDP Opposition wants the Saskatchewan government to help refugees who lost their drug, dental and vision coverage because of federal cuts.

New Democrat Cam Broten says refugees, including a man in Saskatoon with cancer, are falling through the cracks.

The man received chemotherapy, but he couldn't afford medication for the side effects and nearly quit treatment.

The federal government said in the spring that it hoped benefit changes would deter bogus refugee claims and ensure failed asylum seekers didn't take advantage of Canada's free health care.

Saskatchewan Health Minister Dustin Duncan says there's still a lot of confusion over what is being covered.

Duncan told the legislature that the Saskatoon man got cancer care, but he didn't mention anti-nausea medication that the man needed.

At least one other province has stepped in to backfill the federal cuts.

The province said in September that it will help refugees get the health benefits the federal government took away.

Health Minister Theresa Oswald said in a prepared statement that the province doesn't agree with the cuts because it's hurting families and will lead to longer-term and more expensive problems. THE CANADIAN PRESS

On the web

For more local news, visit metronews.ca

Alleged theft of 100,000 toys 'targeted': Sally Ann

Salvation Army. The charitable organization calls organized plot to steal toys over past two years 'troubling'

The Salvation Army believes 100,000 toys were stolen from its Toronto warehouse over the past two years in a "targeted," strategic plot to defraud the charity.

Police have been investigating the alleged theft, estimated to be worth about $2 million, since late September, but have not made any arrests.

The news comes as the Salvation Army is preparing to start its annual Christmas Kettle Campaign, where volunteers solicit donations in high-traffic areas like shopping malls and on the street.

About 140,000 toys are distributed to families in need each holiday season from the Toronto warehouse, but spokesman John Murray said at a news conference Wednesday that no one will go without.

"I can assure you that anyone in need this Christmas will be helped by the Salvation Army," he said.

"To those Canadians who routinely and generously give to the Salvation Army I would appeal to you this afternoon to not lose confidence in the work of the Salvation Army and the work that we do on your behalf in Canadian cities."

A whistleblower within the organization tipped the Salvation Army off a few months ago and internal auditors made the "troubling" discovery, Murray said.

Executive director David Rennie was then fired. No criminal charges have been laid.

Meanwhile, the executive director at the Salvation Army in Ottawa has been fired after auditors discovered $250,000 has gone missing. Perry Rowe had been with the charity's Booth Centre for eight years.

Police have not yet determined what happened to the toys at the Toronto warehouse. Murray said the Salvation Army believes no other locations have been hit with alleged thefts.

"This is an isolated situation," he said. "We believe that it's been very specific. It's been targeted. It's been very strategic in the way that it was put together. It was thought out."

The warehouse has video surveillance and security systems, but the Salvation Army has retained KPMG to do an audit to determine what other checks and balances can be put in place.

The security system is good, so the alleged theft signals that when there is a will, there is a way, Murray said.

"If an individual wants to defraud an organization there are ways and means to do that," he said.

The hearts of people at the Salvation Army go out to whoever committed the alleged theft, but if people have problems in their lives they should instead come to the organization for help, Murray said.

"I also would remind people that when you're stealing from an organization like the Salvation Army," he said. "You're stealing from those people who the Salvation Army helps every day and in Canada that's 1.8 million Canadians in 400 Canadian communities." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maj. John Murray of the Salvation Army attends a news conference at their Railside Road food and toy distribution centre in Toronto on Wednesday after discussing the alleged theft of several million dollars worth of items. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Driving. Are higher premiums for drivers 80+ fair?

Whether an insurance company can charge more for drivers over the age of 80 is the subject of a two-day human-rights hearing slated to start Thursday in a case that could affect thousands of Ontario seniors.

In his complaint, Denis Olorenshaw argues that setting higher premiums for drivers based on their plus-80 status amounts to age discrimination that can't be justified.

"They don't have the legal basis...for increasing a premium for an 80-year-old driver," Olorenshaw said in an interview Wednesday. "It's serious business."

Olorenshaw, 92, of Toronto, launched his complaint after he began shopping around for auto insurance in 2009.

Both he and his daughter had identical Toyotas purchased at the same time and lived in the same condominium. However, his daughter, then aged 62, was given a lower quote from the brokerage company Atrens-Counsel on behalf of Western Assurance. "There was a $250 difference in the premiums," Olorenshaw said. "I didn't buy it."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tensions rise between feds, First Nations over bill

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan, right, and Phyllis Sutherland of the Peguis First Nation in Manitoba discuss the First Nations Financial Transparency Act in Ottawa, Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The federal Conservatives are pushing through more First Nations legislation that does not have the support of chiefs, despite growing tension between Ottawa and native leaders.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan said Wednesday his party is forcing a vote to shut down debate on a financial transparency bill that will require First Nations chiefs and councillors to publish their salaries and expenses.

The move means the bill will pass the House of Commons by the end of this week — over the objections of chiefs as well as the federal NDP and Liberals. Various forms of the bill have been around for three years, stalled by electoral cycles and opposition from the Assembly of First Nations.

"It's unfortunate that we have to take this measure," Duncan told a news conference. "Continued obstruction by the NDP and Liberals has made it clear that this is the only way this important bill will be passed."

Duncan said that while the chiefs' organization may not support the legislation, it is in keeping with resolutions passed by the AFN and is widely favoured by grassroots First Nations.

But it's only one of several pieces of legislation that the Conservatives have pushed aggressively through the Commons over the objections of the AFN, leading to deterioration in the relationship between Conservative and First Nations leaders.

"There has been a ... sense of frustration,'" AFN National Chief Shawn Atleo wrote in a letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper last month. "This is exacerbated by the federal government's broader legislative agenda."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divisions

The relationship between the federal government and the First Nations is becoming increasingly acrimonious.

- **Friction.** NDP aboriginal affairs critic Jean Crowder said the talks won't get back on track until the federal government renounces the old ways of telling First Nations how things should be done.

Trial

Man's murder conviction nixed over jury vetting

A man accused of kidnapping and slitting a woman's throat has had his murder conviction quashed because prosecutors and police acted improperly when it came to jury selection at his trial.

In ordering a new hearing for Clare Spiers, Ontario's top court said Wednesday an examination of how potential jurors were vetted creates a "troubling picture" of damaging collusion between Crown and police that amounted to a miscarriage of justice.

"This picture is one of unfairness in the jury-selection process," the Ontario Court of Appeal said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Military

Four years later, reservists still waiting for change

Four years after a landmark report raised the alarm about the care of reservists, the military ombudsman says citizen soldiers are still treated poorly. Pierre Daigle also concludes there remains a wide gulf between the cash settlements reserve members and those in the regular force receive when they lose a limb on duty in Canada.

Daigle released a report Wednesday that says out of the 12 recommendations made in 2008, only four have been fully implemented, another six were partially achieved and two have seen no action whatsoever.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Benefits

Gov't should nix credits for kids, put towards low-income families instead: Coalition

Ottawa should eliminate some cash payments and child tax benefits and credits offered to Canadian parents and instead direct the money to the lowest-income families, an anti-poverty coalition said in a report released Wednesday. Campaign 2000 said the government should nix the child tax credit, the child fitness tax credit and the universal child care benefit and put the money towards the national children's benefit for families earning up to $42,700 a year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's a Gaza deal ... after 1,500 air strikes and 1,500 rocket attacks

The question. Can two bitter foes, Israel and Hamas, make the ceasefire hold?

Will it last?

That was the question being asked in Israel and Gaza on Wednesday as a ceasefire was forged after an incredible two days of intense shuttle diplomacy.

"I just hope they commit to peace," said Abdel-Nasser al-Tom, from northern Gaza.

Despite the fears, joy broke out like an explosion.

Cheering Gazans emerged from their homes after a week, flooding the streets in wild celebration.

Gunmen fired in the air, and chants of "God is great" echoed from mosque loudspeakers.

Residents hugged and kissed in celebration, while others distributed candy and waved Hamas flags.

Israel and the Hamas militant group agreed to the ceasefire Wednesday after eight days of the fiercest fighting in nearly four years.

They promised to halt air strikes and rocket attacks that have killed scores and to ease an Israeli blockade constricting the Gaza Strip.

The truce will "improve conditions for the people of Gaza and provide security for the people of Israel," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said in Cairo.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morsi's moment

The ceasefire deal marks a startling trajectory for the mediator — Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi.

- **New role.** The man who refused to talk to the Israelis or even say the country's name finally turned himself into Israel's protector.

In this image taken from Egyptian state television, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton shakes hands with Egypt's foreign minister, Mohammed Kamel Amr, in Cairo after a ceasefire was announced between Israel and Hamas. Clinton shuttled across the region to help end the fighting. EGYPTIAN STATE TELEVISION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baird speaks out

Hamas and Israel? It's not complex

There has been nothing complicated about the conflict between Israel and Hamas, says Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

John Baird

"It's not a complex issue," he said as a ceasefire was declared.

"You have a terrorist group launching rockets against Israel."

But the broader question of Mideast peace is far more complicated, he stressed, adding he's "cautiously optimistic" about the ceasefire.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel sends Facebook and Twitter into battle

Israel is using social media to pre-empt a publicity pounding over its Gaza offensive.

It's furiously tweeting and posting Facebook updates from a "media bunker."

The instant they heard about a bus bombing that wounded 27 in Tel Aviv on Wednesday, scores of tech-savvy youth in Israel's media command centre in Jerusalem sprang into action.

They began flooding social media with updates and created a graphic exclaiming: "We didn't send in our ground troops, but they sent in theirs!"

Hundreds of volunteers have produced and posted videos and graphics about the twists in the Gaza offensive from Israel's point of view.

Its Facebook site, Israel Under Fire, has gained more than 24,000 "likes" over the last week.

"They used to say the Elders of Zion controlled the media. Well, here are the youngsters of Zion who are running it," said Daniel Seaman, deputy director general at the Ministry of Public Diplomacy.

Quoted

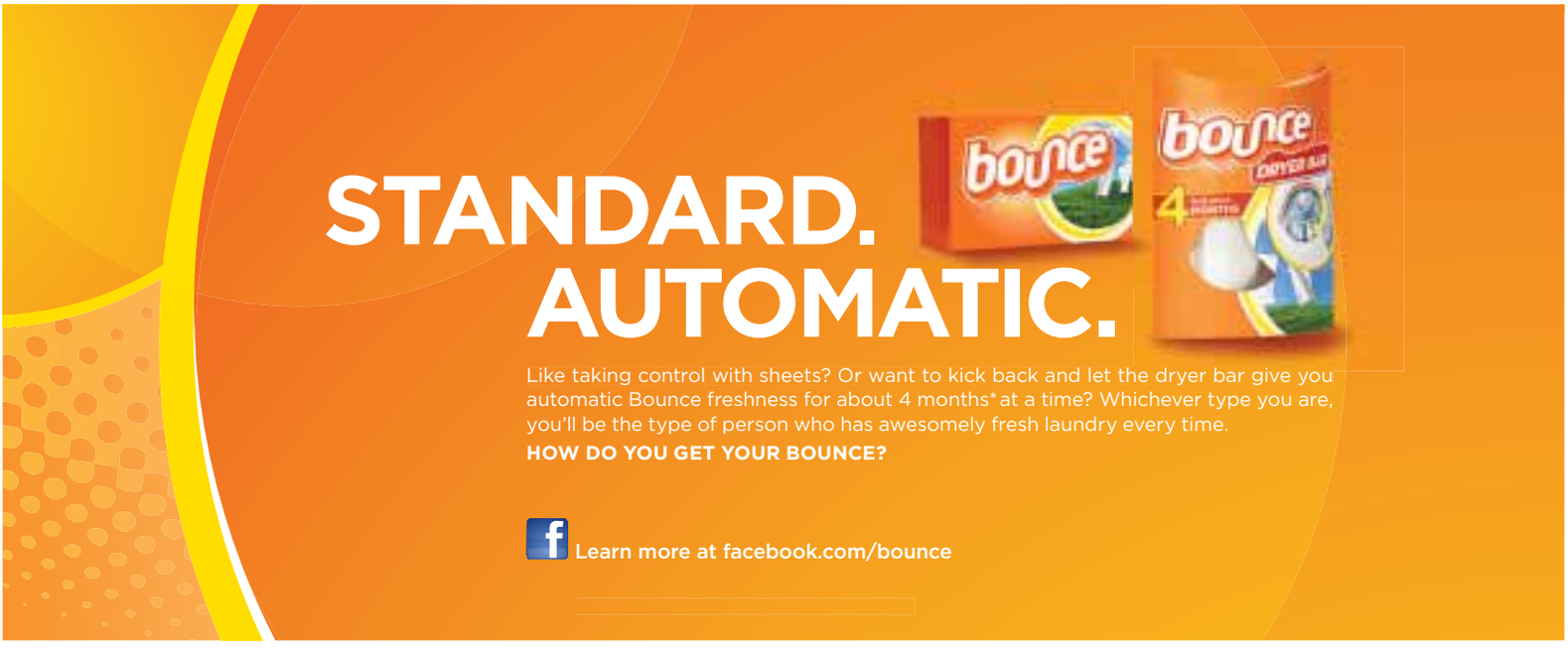
"We're removing the media middlemen."

Daniel Seaman
Ministry of Public Diplomacy

For its part, Hamas is countering Israel's Internet firepower with only an unverified Twitter account, though legions of pro-Palestinian activists around the world are peppering the Internet with posts and tweets.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rallied the volunteers this week in a video conference, where he reflected the view of Israelis and supporters that the media are anti-Israel and pro-Palestinian.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Budget watchdog takes Tories to court

Matter of jurisdiction. Budget officer taking on creators of his job over withheld figures

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page has filed an application with the Federal Court to ensure he can get access to information. THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Canada's budget watchdog is taking the Harper government to court over its refusal to turn over information about austerity measures.

Parliamentary budget officer Kevin Page on Wednesday filed a reference application with the Federal Court seeking a judgment affirming he has the jurisdiction to search for the information.

In a covering letter signed by Ottawa constitutional lawyer Joseph Magnet and Tolga Yalkin of the PBO, Page cites the "urgency" of resolving the issue quickly and proposes numerous dates for the hearing from Nov. 29 to Jan. 11.

The budget officer has complained for months that government departments have not been forthcoming with his requests on budget cuts, staff reductions and impacts on services.

In response, the government said Page is overreaching and that his mandate is to examine government spending, not government restraint.

Opposition leaders said Page had no choice but to go to court to perform his duty and accused the Conservatives of carrying out a vendetta against the budget officer, a position they created.

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said the government only wants Page to follow his mandate, which he described as reporting to MPs on the budget process and spending measures.

That's a "juvenile" argument, responded interim Liberal Leader Bob Rae.

"I think it's terrible the way they are forcing an officer of Parliament to go to court to do a job which everybody recognizes he has to do," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Obstruction?

"They've done everything to shut down Kevin Page since he started in that job."
NDP Leader Tom Mulcair
on the Conservative government

Charity. Patrick Stewart, Morgan Freeman want you to wait for the beep

Imagine having William Shatner supply your outgoing-voice-mail message. Or maybe you'd prefer Morgan Freeman coolly telling callers to wait for the beep. Or perhaps having Betty White joke around is more your speed.

All it takes is $299 US and some luck.

The advocacy group Autism Speaks is offering custom-recorded messages from those celebrities, as well as Will Ferrell, Carrie Fisher, Tom Hanks, Derek Jeter, Leonard Nimoy, Patrick Stewart and Ed Asner.

From Dec. 3 to 9, a limited number of 20-second-long MP3 messages will be recorded by each celebrity on a first-come, first-served basis for fans to do with as they wish. All requests must be of the PG variety.

Asner, the curmudgeonly Emmy Award-winner of The Mary Tyler Moore Show and Lou Grant, dreamed up the fundraiser with his son Matt, who works for Autism Speaks.

"I think people will get a charge out of it," says Asner. "I'll probably say, 'What are you wearing?' Or, 'Take it off.' Something like that."

Morgan Freeman GETTY IMAGES

All proceeds will support autism research and advocacy efforts. An estimated one-in-88 children in the U.S. is on the autism spectrum, a developmental disorder characterized by communication difficulties, social and behavioural challenges, as well as repetitive behaviours.

If he could get a message from one of the other stars participating, which would Asner want?

"I'm awfully stuck on Will Ferrell, having been subjected to him in Elf," Asner says. "But they're all such standouts. ... Even Betty White," he adds about his MTM co-star. "She's still got some good left in her." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spills and shills

Liberal critic calls Tories lackeys for Big Oil, resigns

Ottawa MP David McGuinty abruptly resigned as the Liberal party's natural-resources critic Wednesday after suggesting Conservative MPs from Alberta are shills for the oil industry and should go home.

His statements came just days before a by-election in Calgary, where the Liberals have high hopes for an upset. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Online privacy

Facebook mulls an end to brush with democracy

Facebook is proposing to end its practice of letting users vote on changes to its privacy policies.

The company said Wednesday that its voting mechanism, which triggers only if enough people comment on proposed changes, has become a system that emphasizes quantity of responses over quality of discussion.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A funny thing happens when you tell kids they matter. They believe you.

An alarming 40,000 kids drop out of high school every year. Boys and Girls Clubs of Canada are committed to changing that. They provide a safe and supportive place where kids can develop confidence and life skills. They offer programs like *Rogers Raising the Grade*™ to help kids with their studies. The Club is a place where kids can drop in, so they're less likely to drop out.

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Holiday shoppers not too keen on apps, survey finds

Retail. Mobile discount-hunting can give buyers an edge, but it's been slow to catch on in Canada

Smartphones can scan barcodes and offer real-time discounts but most Canadians won't bother using apps while shopping this holiday season, a new survey suggests.

About 70 per cent of those surveyed weren't planning to use a mobile application or feature to help buy gifts, according to the results of a poll commissioned by wireless carrier Mobilicity.

Smartphone apps can give users notifications of what discounts are being offered in a mall and at what stores, said Anthony Booth, Mobilicity's chief customer officer.

"The real astute users are the people who have figured out how to take advantage of things in real time by using their smartphone," Booth said from Toronto.

Black Friday, the day after U.S. Thanksgiving, has come to Canada and generally marks the beginning of the holiday shopping season. Apps such as TGI Black Friday and Black Friday Deals and Coupons allows smartphone users to search from thousands of discounts.

Booth said even though Canadians do a lot of online research and price comparison, app adoption is about a year behind the United States. He expects more uptake by Canadians in 2013.

Marta Tryshak, creator of lifestyle and fashion website WithLoveGabrielle.com, has been using her smartphone for four years to find the best prices and said it's a must for Black Friday and other holiday shopping.

The online survey of 1,514 Canadians by Leger Marketing has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A reporter demonstrates a shopping app on her smartphone in San Francisco. While there are a slew of apps that can help save time and money this holiday season, a new survey suggests most Canadians don't plan on using them. JEFF CHIU/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"(Holidays) are the times when you have to have a strategy when it comes to shopping, otherwise you will be overwhelmed."

Marta Tryshak, lifestyle and fashion blogger, who says using her smartphone to check prices is a must during the busy shopping season

Switching to iPhones

Another U.S. agency drops BlackBerrys

BlackBerry smartphones are being dropped by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in favour of the new iPhone 5, with "performance issues" cited as the reason.

The Washington-based board, the latest American government agency to turn away from the BlackBerry, said it needs reliable devices for its employees to investigate accidents, often in remote locations.

"These Apple devices will replace the NTSB's existing BlackBerry devices, which have been failing both at inopportune times and at an unacceptable rate," the board said in a recent document. Research In Motion has lost several other U.S. departments and agencies as clients.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Japan. Four-legged robot may help at meltdown site

Toshiba Corp. unveiled a robot Wednesday that the company says can withstand high radiation and help in nuclear disasters.

But it remains unclear what exactly the new machine will be capable of doing if and when it gets the go-ahead to enter Japan's crippled Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

The four-legged robot can climb over debris and venture into radiated areas off-limits to human workers. One significant innovation, Toshiba said, is that its wireless network can be controlled in high radiation, automatically seeking better transmission when reception becomes weak.

But the machine, which looks like an ice cooler on wobbly metal legs, also appears prone to glitches. The robot took a jerky misstep during a demonstration to reporters, freezing with one leg up in the air. It had to be lifted by several people and rebooted.

Still, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said it might use the robot to inspect the suppression chamber of the Fukushima plant, where a devastating meltdown took place after a mammoth tsunami slammed into northeastern Japan on March 11, 2011.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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NHL COMMISSIONER GETS CANDID

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

What follows is an exclusive, in-good-faith, "marathon" interview with Gary Bettman, commissioner of the National Hockey League.

While it's true the commissioner has been talking to other media throughout the NHL lockout, Mr. Bettman told me some exclusive things — things so striking and unexpected that he may deny ever having talked to me, or, indeed, having heard of me.

NHL insiders say that, using the logic of contract negations, his refusal to acknowledge my existence is a sign our talk went well.

He Says: Mr. Bettman, let's drop the gloves. What can the league do to win back fans after this lockout, which everybody outside of the players and owners believes was unnecessary and wrong?

Bettman: Well, we're very fortunate to have great fans in Canada that have nothing else to do in the winter that isn't illegal. As for Americans, they haven't noticed yet that we've been gone. So don't tell them, OK?

He Says: Don't you think this cavalier attitude will only reinforce Canadians' belief that you don't care about the fans, delivering a Raffi Torres-like check to the head to our national game?

Bettman: Well, first of all, I don't know what a Raffi Torres is, but let me say that I'm confident the fans will be back.

He Says: How can you be so sure?

Bettman: If you read news reports from after the last lockout, you see headlines like: "Hockey: Does anyone still care?" next to headlines like, "Maple Leafs' second-unit penalty kill needs tweaking or heads will roll."

He Says: I see your point. But the NHL game was, before The Lockout: Part 2, at the height of its popularity. The hockey was faster, the women behind the benches were hotter, and mentions in late-night comedy monologues were at an all-time low. How did you kill all that momentum?

Bettman: You have to understand that there's been a huge philosophical divide between each side.

He Says: I noticed that in the various proposals. The players said the repeating lockout was an example of Nietzsche's eternal recurrence, while you adhered to the deconstructionism of Jacques Derrida, refusing to make whole.

Bettman: We spent one meeting talking about whether contract negotiations really mean anything in a cold, uncaring universe. We found a lot of common ground there. But that's not what I meant. What I meant is that we have a different attitude than the players, because we don't care what people think of us.

He Says: That's refreshingly honest.

Bettman: The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans. But the management don't have to be heroes. No Canadian kid says, "I want to be an owner." Or commissioner. Keep it under your helmet, but I'm not very popular.

He Says: Your secret's safe with me. I want to thank you for your candour, Mr. Bettman. And remember, keep your stick on the ice.

Bettman: I'm sorry, what?

He Says: Uh, just forget it.

Straight talk

"The players will always be at a disadvantage in contract negotiations, because they're heroes, betraying their fans."

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman
told He Says in an honest interview

NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman sits down to talk with He Says regarding the lockout. CHRIS SO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Choo-choo-chocolatey express

YVES LOGGHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World record

Longest chocolate structure rolls into Brussels

Commuters take pictures of the world's longest chocolate structure as it is displayed at Brussels Midi train station on Wednesday.

The train, which took 784 hours of labour to create, measures 34.05 metres (111 feet) in total length, was prepared with 1,285 kilograms (2,832 lb.) of Belgian chocolate and was built by master chocolatier Andrew Farrugia from Malta.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's as long as...

Let's see what else compares to the 111 feet of chocolatey heaven.

- **NBA basketball court.** An NBA basketball court is just a smidgen shorter than the train, measuring 94 feet long.
- **Baseball diamond.** The distance between each base in a baseball diamond is 90 feet.
- **The Mayflower.** The ship that transported English and Dutch Separatists to Massachusetts was 100-feet long, slightly shorter than the chocolatey train.

Culinary concoctions

It's a sweet time to be a world record holder. Here's some other culinary concoctions that have set world records recently.

- **Cream cake.** Chefs in Switzerland took the title for the longest cake ever — a whopping 1,200 metres (3,937 feet) of sugar, flour and cream in November 2012. That's more than a kilometre of cake!
- **Chocolate bar.** The longest chocolate bar was measured at 15.9 metres (52 feet) long and 2.03 metres (6.7 feet) wide in Bologna, Italy in 2011.

Calorie counting

6.5M

The model train packs an impressive 6.5 million calories. But, the train isn't the largest chocolate structure in the world. That title goes to a California bakery that built a massive Mayan temple out of the dark sweet that weights three times as much as the train.

Metropolitan Panel

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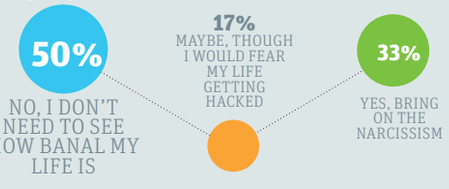
Would you buy an attachable camera that snaps thousands of pictures of your life everyday?


50%
NO, I DON'T NEED TO SEE HOW BANAL MY LIFE IS
17%
MAYBE, THOUGH I WOULD FEAR MY LIFE GETTING HACKED
33%
YES, BRING ON THE NARCISSISM

Twitter

@TdotRegina: I can't believe how much it's raining in #yqr. It's like a June rain. Tomorrow is going to be a crazy drive going anywhere.

@DrewBrady710: Awesome rain! It's really clearing the snow off the roads! #finally #yqr #awesomeroads

@karianne27: Pouring rain when I left the gym, turn on my truck & #November Rain just is playing on the radio at that moment... #asif #goingtobeicy #yqr

@Dan_Kasperski: Good luck to ppl leaving for 100th Grey Cup...Regina has freezing rain today #ck30bday

@srtannerr: Having such a good time here at Agribition with my class! Can't wait to come back Friday! ;) #rodeo #cowboys #cuties

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Diamond Rings on his music, style and his Queen City debut

Free Dimensional.
Toronto electro-pop act brings show to Regina — and what a show it will be

BACKSTAGE PASS
Jeff Mackey
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Toronto-based electro-pop act Diamond Rings is on a roll. The project is the brainchild of former D'Urbervilles front man John O and the newest album Free Dimensional has been garnering a lot of attention.

On the official website Diamond Rings' music is described as: "Music that exists outside specific eras, distilling encyclopedic knowledge and passion into laser-like beams of emotional immediacy."

Ever since the release of Diamond Rings' debut, Special Affections, in 2010 John O has been touring, producing music and gaining steam. In 2011 he opened for Swedish pop star Robyn on her North American tour, an ideal musical pairing for fans and artists alike.

"It really gave me a lot of inspiration and the courage to step up to the plate with this new record and in my live performances as well," said John O of his time touring with Robyn.

According to John O, anyone attending Diamond Rings' show at the Cultural Exchange on Nov. 22 should expect "costume changes, loud music, dancing and hopefully me remembering all the words."

While John O may have trouble remembering his lyrics, his act is pretty hard to forget.

With his fashion-forward haircut as well as his modern, Bowie-esque makeup and outfits John O creates a presence that is hard to forget.

"People, especially in a live context, hear with their eyes as much as their ears, if that makes sense," said John O. "I have been trying to instill my visual aesthetic into something that is really solid and really direct and impactful."

Those who go to the Thursday night show will also get the chance to witness Diamond Rings' Regina debut.

"I have played the prairies but never Regina, I have played Saskatoon though. It is going to be cool I am really looking forward to it," said John O. "I am happy to be anywhere in the world playing my music, that is what I do and it is a dream come true."

What to expect

"Costume changes, loud music, dancing and hopefully me remembering all the words."

John O, on what a Diamond Rings show is like

Diamond Rings will be playing the Cultural Exchange tonight at 8 p.m. tickets are $13 in advance.
CONTRIBUTED/DIAMOND RINGS

Self-described

On the official website Diamond Rings' music is described as: "Music that exists outside specific eras, distilling encyclopedic knowledge and passion into laser-like beams of emotional immediacy."

SCENE

Delusions of Grandeur.
Sasseville's show hits Blip following ABC rejection

Sasseville in his Blip show Delusions of Grandeur. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jake Sasseville had it all planned out: He'd been working for a year on a TV show based on his life, and he was going to get it on the air in a unique fashion — by buying network time.

He purchased eight 30-minute blocks on ABC Family to launch Delusions of Grandeur. It was set to debut Oct. 4 at 1 a.m. EDT, but the network pulled it two weeks before the air-date, Sasseville said.

"I got a ton of emails from the legal team who all of a sudden chose ... that the show was not going to air," the 26-year-old said of the show, which has now found a home on Blip, a website for original series. "And this was after I paid for the time."

ABC Family, which is owned by Disney, said in a statement that Sasseville's show didn't air "because it did not meet our standards for programming for time buy purchases." The network didn't provide details. He did receive a refund, however.

Sasseville was using the time buy and paid programming format, where the purchaser buys airtime and gets sponsors, but the network retains control. He used the format for The Edge With Jake Sasseville in 2008, which aired on ABC affiliates following Jimmy Kimmel Live, and for Late Night Republic, which aired on MyNetworkTV and Fox stations from August 2010 to October 2011.

He said he funded both programs through sponsorships with Overstock.com, Ford Motor Co., Microsoft Corp. and others.

Delusions of Grandeur, a loosely scripted comedy about the actor-comedian's life and his successes and failures in the TV industry, debuted Oct. 3 on Blip. So far, four 30-minute episodes have aired, and it returns Tuesday after its mid-season break.

He was also able to retain his advertisers, including State Farm insurance company, once his show got the boot from ABC.

Sasseville is producing the series through his production company, City of Sass. He also has a new book, Slightly Famous, published by City of Sass Print.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Baldwin sharpens his Claus for edgy festive animated role

Rise of the Guardians.
Veteran actor voices an alternate Santa covered in tattoos for new animated film

Alec Baldwin gives a new voice to Santa Claus. GETTY IMAGE

OLIVIA MORROW
Metro World News in New York

Alec Baldwin is widely recognized for the huge variety of roles he's played throughout his long, successful career, but you might not have expected him to tackle his latest character in the Dreamworks animated film, Rise of the Guardians.

Baldwin gives voice to an unconventional Santa Claus, with a thick, brutish accent and arms full of tattoos. One of the film's producers, Christina Steinberg, puts it perfectly: "Who's more naughty and nice than Alec?"

Although Baldwin has voiced numerous characters in past films — including Madagascar 2 and Cats & Dogs — you'd expect that children's films wouldn't be of much appeal considering his only daughter is now a teenager.

"I think that people all say that they want to ... do this children's programming for your kids," he says. "My daughter is 17 now, my daughter is watching God-knows-what.

"It's kind of frightening, but I think that when they showed me that these were going to be edgier versions of these characters — when you see the Santa Claus figure it's usually ... a rosy-cheeked, saintly man with not a lot of dimension — (it) was a lot more real, so I loved that."

Baldwin talked about his personal beliefs regarding Santa Claus when he was a child and how he discovered it was all a myth: "I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping presents with my mother and I was like, 'Wait, what?'" he explains.

"I think they only told me because the more kids my mother had, the more wrapping they had to do. I immediately became enlisted as a wrapper."

But just what was it like for Baldwin to play the legendary character?

"The key with these kinds of films is to work your way toward a much warmer kind of humanistic place, literally in your voice. ... The thing for me is to try to vary the tone. ... You want to try to keep it warm, there's a great deal of love and warmth in the piece, (but) there's always a chance to make it really, really bombastic, especially with the Santa Claus character.

"There's a chance to make it very strident. The guy is very, very powerful in some scenes — but in other scenes you want to make it silly and fun and child-friendly."

What's next?

Quality over quantity. As he prepares to say goodbye to 30 Rock, it seems Baldwin's life is slowing down, as he says his career is all about quality rather than quantity now. "I'd rather just stay home with my wife and my two dogs and watch TV now. I'd rather watch a movie than make a movie any day," he says.

On Turning 50. "I'm at a stage now where it's more like when you were a child where you're very present. When you're kids, everything is very small. ... Then you turn 50 — the world becomes a lot smaller and you'd rather do less things and do them well and have a more satisfying personal life."

Quoted

"I walked into a room and my sister was wrapping gifts with my mother and I was like 'Wait, what!'"

Alec Baldwin, actor
On when he started to question the existence of Santa Claus.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Lohan regrets nothing, could be facing more jail time

Lindsay Lohan has no regrets, she insists, despite the legal and family problems that have plagued her and impacted her career.

"I want to be known as an actress, not a troubled starlet," Lohan tells Us Weekly during a lengthy sit-down interview.

"(I regret) nothing, because then I wouldn't have been able to cry in scenes at the drop of a hat. I have a tattoo, Live without regrets. I'm not saying I wanted to go to a jail cell, but I've drawn from it."

Well, she might have even more to draw from soon.

It looks like she'll have her probation revoked for lying to police after a summer fender-bender, according to TMZ, and that could lead to more jail time for Lohan.

Cameron Diaz wants you to objectify her

Maybe the feminists had it wrong. At least, that's an idea that Cameron Diaz is promoting.

"I think every woman does want to be objectified," she tells the Sunday Times.

"There's a little part of you at all times that hopes to be somewhat objectified, and I think it's healthy. I'm a woman, I know how to handle myself. I know what I feel comfortable doing, and I know my sexuality."

Cameron Diaz

The Word

Rihanna finally makes appearance on 777-tour

THE WORD
Katarina Matsson
scene@metronews.ca

Rihanna's 777 Tour has taken its toll on journalists and fans who followed the star around the globe.

After a week, their frustration exploded. Constant delays and lack of sleep (those on board had to crash whenever and wherever they had a chance: on coaches, on board the plane or on a floor) and not knowing when the next opportunity to eat and drink would materialize, are circumstances most would endure with joy — if only the main subject of the whole trip would show herself offstage.

After mounting criticism spread like a wildfire online — that's the risk you take when you invite 150 journalists — Rihanna yesterday showed herself on the plane.

Wearing dark sunglasses, she appeared 10 minutes before the plane was due to land after the last leg. She even came close to offering an apology.

"I didn't get to spend as much time as I'd originally planned with you guys. I think you are tired as well, but I wanna now improve so I'm gonna come and sit here with you guys. And thank you everybody for making this trip the s—t," she told the journalists.

What was the hardest part of the tour?
The hardest part? I guess trying to balance being a hostess and a performer. I'm supposed to do my show and then shut the f—k up until the next show. Because the two hours we have to fly that's when I can sleep, but I really wanted to hang out and interact with everybody and give everybody my time. So I guess that was difficult.

Rihanna, can you sum up the tour for us?
Rock and roll, true friends, press who really want to know the dirt, rarely got any dirt cause I had to be good. I had to be good this time. We would have had a 333 tour if I wasn't good. I wouldn't have lasted. I still sound like s—t right now, but tonight is the last s—t so we are going all the way. No mercy, that's what I mean. I'm gonna put all my energy into this one show.

Justin Bieber

Oprah dishes out dating advice for Justin Bieber

While Justin Bieber may still be making attempts to win back ex-girlfriend Selena Gomez, at least one influential personality thinks he should cool it — and maybe revise his previously stated plans to be married by 25, too.

"I think 25 is too young, actually, I really do — particularly for you," Oprah Winfrey told Bieber during a one-on-one interview with the superstar.

"Your whole 20s is about discovering who you really are. You owe that to yourself, particularly because of the business that you're in (where there's) not a lot of self-discovery time because so much is already defined for you."

In other news, prosecutors decided not to file any charges against Bieber after investigators found no evidence that the pop star had kicked and punched a photographer after leaving a movie theatre last month, a document obtained Wednesday states.

Twitter

@tyrabanks
Remember ladies: U don't need a KING to be a QUEEN!

@Pink
Wait til ya'll see how much weight I can gain in one meal

@ElizabethHurley
How many of my female followers wear skirts/dresses by day? Press events aside, I wear jeans or pants every day without exception #curious

@SarahKSilverman
Trying to feel okay about picking up my tofurky thanksgiving meal for 1

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À la mode in many ways: The black short-sleeved dress from H&M ($49.95) on the left is seen accompanied respectively by a Vince fur vest from Holt Renfrew ($1,975), grey cardigan from Topshop at the Bay ($100) and a black jacket with faux-leather sleeves from Dynamite ($49.90). AARON VINCENT ELKAIM / THE CANADIAN PRESS

A dress fit for four fêtes

Deck the holidays. No need to break the bank on several new outfits as you navigate the social circuit this season

Whether you're heading to cocktails, the office bash or a family gathering, a few fashionable additions can add some oomph to your festive wardrobe.

"As much as we know that we've got lots of different parties on our calendar for the holidays, we don't always have to necessarily buy four different outfits," said Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine. "It's all about how you style one main piece."

THE STAPLE PIECE

Cyboran said the little black dress is the wardrobe essential for any holiday look. That's likely music to the ears of cost-conscious fashionistas who may already have an LBD tucked away in their closet or are able to scout out a new, affordable option.

The seemingly season-less style staple has a chameleon-like ability to transform from upscale chic to laid back casual.

Selecting the right style with its own intricate details such as pleating, embellished sleeves and a flattering silhouette can ensure it can work as a stand-alone garment, Cyboran noted.

Going for glam

Looking to add a little luxe to your holiday look? Cyboran said teaming your dress with a faux fur topper along with some shimmering sequined booties can instantly infuse a glam touch.

Comfort casual

Heading to cottage country or settling in at home for a more low-key holiday celebration? Cyboran suggests taking a robust, comfy warm knit worn with a belt over the dress, along with a pair of slouchy, low-cut boots for a more casual ensemble.

Office party chic

If you're pressed for time and need to make a wardrobe quick-change for the office shindig, Cyboran said a blazer with faux leather detailing partnered with a pair of pumps can easily help translate your outfit for after-hours.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bling it on

Trying to select several eye-catching add-ons to amp up your party attire?

- **Step in style.** In the case of those seeking a little lift, Julia Cyboran said the pointy-toed pump that dominated the fashion runways is emerging as a standout on the market.
- **In the bag.** Cyboran said the solid, structured pillbox clutch will remain a style standout for the holidays, but expect to see envelope clutches in the hands of women heading out on the town.
- **Making a statement.** Bigger is better when it comes to statement jewelry, with large-scale earrings and necklaces among the holiday accessory offerings. While rose gold hit the market last spring, Cyboran said it started to surface a little last winter in watches, belts and earrings, as did chocolate-coloured gold, and both colours have remained a part of the accessory landscape.

Julia Cyboran, editor-in-chief of Loulou magazine, selected this black-and-gold clutch from BCBG ($190), and Envelope clutch from Forever 21 ($19.80) to highlight the season's key trends. AARON VINCENT ELKAIM/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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DIY PROJECT

GALLERY LEDGES

If you are anything like me, you like to accessorize your house.

You want to change things up with the seasons by adding fresh photos and decor. But you want this change to be easy and fast.

A simple gallery ledge allows you to keep your home updated season by season, holiday to holiday.

Create a wall of vacation memories or use these customizable ledges to display collectibles. In just a few hours, and for as many dollars, you can transform a blank wall into your favourite part of your home.

Shopping list:
1x4: 2 in (61cm) per every foot (30.5cm) of ledge
1x2: 1 in (30.5cm) per every foot
(30.5cm) of ledge
Wood glue
2 in (5cm) nails or screws or 11/4 in (3cm) pocket hole screws
3 in (7.5cm) screws or picture-hanging bracket
Finishing supplies

Tools:
Basic hand tools
Finish nailer or pocket hole jig or drill with countersink bits
Stud finder (optional)
Level

Cutting list:
2 1x4s at desired ledge length
1 1x2 at desired ledge length

Directions:
1. Back: If you are using pocket holes, drill 3/4 in pocket holes every 6 in (15 cm) to 8 in (20.5 cm) along both edges of the bottom of the shelf. Attach the back with glue and 11/4 in (3 cm) pocket hole screws. For nails and countersunk screws, use ample glue and attach the bottom board to the back with 2 in (5 cm) screws or nails.

2. Front: The front trim is both decorative and functional. It will keep your displays from falling off the narrow ledge. Attach it with either glue and 2 in (5 cm) finish nails or pocket hole screws if you drilled holes in the first step. Keep all edges flush to the bottom.

3. Hanging: To hang the ledges, locate the studs in your wall with a stud finder (optional) and mark them. Position the ledges on your wall, marking the location of studs on the back of the ledge. Pre-drill holes into the back of the gallery ledge, matching the stud location. Using 3 in (7.5 cm) screws through the pre-drilled holes, attach the back of the gallery ledge to the studs in the wall. Use a level to ensure your shelves are straight. Alternatively, you can use a picture-hanging bracket to hang the shelves.

TIP: If you hang more than one shelf, leave approximately 15 in (38cm) between the two levels of shelves to allow for photos and other artwork.

4. Planning your ledges: These ledges are simple to build, but you will want to plan out the length of your ledges to fit your wall space. Choosing lengths of 24 in (61cm), 32 in (81 cm), 48 in (122cm), and 96 in (244 cm) conserve the boards best. Lengths less than 24 in (61 cm) can present hanging challenges.

"If you're lucky enough to be Irish, you're lucky enough!"

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O'Hanlon's

Don't be afriad to pick up a drill, says Ana White. HANDOUT

BIY: Grab a hammer and build it yourself, says DIY blogger

At home. New book gives tips for 34 stylish and budget-friendly woodworking projects

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News in New York City

Ladies, forget buying a shelf — let alone getting a man to hang it up. DIY blogger Ana White says build one on your own.

The petite 32-year-old mom constructs furniture — such as a solid farmhouse bed and charming dining room hutch — in her home in Alaska and shares her easy-to-follow plans on her wildly popular furniture design site, ana-white.com.

Last month, she released her debut book, The Handbuilt Home, with instructions and tips for 34 (mostly new) stylish and budget-friendly woodworking projects.

For those afraid to pick up a drill, White uses her own experience as motivation. "I didn't use a drill or saw until I was in my mid-20s. It's not that you can't, it's just that you haven't been taught," says White, who built her first piece of furniture because she and her husband couldn't afford high-quality design and didn't want to compromise on cheaper particle board options. "A drill to me is as easy as a hand mixer — it rotates with an attachment. So I say, 'If you can beat eggs, you can use a drill.'"

The Handbuilt Home by Ana White

Still not convinced? White recommends starting small. "Have your hardware store cut your boards so you're not dealing with a saw. Take them home, use a drill — but pretend it's a hand mixer — and make your first piece of furniture. You'll build up some confidence and go from there."

Aren't supplies expensive?
Most furniture that you buy is particle board. If you're to compare apples to apples, you can buy a 4-foot by 8-foot sheet of particle board big enough to make a bookshelf for $17 at any hardware store. If you want to go up a grade, make it out of plywood, which high-quality cabinets are made out of. You could buy a sheet of it for $50.

Why DIY?
White on why you should make your own furniture:

Save thousands of dollars
Everybody wants to save some money, right? When you build furniture, you save upward of 90 per cent off retail.

That's why I started building my own. I said, "I'm a mom. We have a tight budget, where can I be the most effective?" I found that furniture was where I could create the biggest return for my time.

You're the boss
When you DIY, you say what goes in your home. You can say, "I want this colour. I want it to fit this space. I have a small apartment, I want a floor-to-ceiling bookshelf that fits perfectly." If you're buying something, you're stuck dealing with what is in season or in style.

It's green
You can make your project greener. You can say, "I want a really high indoor air quality in my home, so I'm going to choose formaldehyde-free materials. I'm going to use low VOC paint and make our home healthier as well." You can also say, "I don't want to contribute to landfills." When I make my own furniture, there's no packaging involved. I just go to Home Depot and get some raw boards and build something. I don't have to figure out a way to dispose of this packaging or think about the furniture being shipped overseas and then shipped back to manufacturing plants and distribution centres.

Three big holiday decor trends

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Each year we see new colours being introduced to Christmas decor, as if the ornaments we use every year won't suffice.

Holiday decor usually follows suit with fashion or home decor, and this year it's easier than ever to update your holiday decorations and have a trend-setting home for the holidays.

Consider taking a few good holiday standards and adding a twist in order to make your home trend-worthy this year.

Use old ornaments

Colour block old ornaments into a concentrated area — display in a crystal bowl, use on a staircase garland, string on a garland across a window, decorate a spare room or donate to a local shelter. Do this three to four weeks before the holidays to give them time to enjoy.

Glitter Wreath: Mixing gold and silver is all of a sudden OK for holiday decorating this year. CRATEANDBARREL.COM

Glam with rustic

We've always been told never to mix the precious metals when decorating — mixing silver and gold has always been a faux pas. Silver has topped the list for sometime now. This year, we are taking the warm and cool metal tones and blending them to help create a more humble look. Using them in a rich, formal setting would be too much formality. Using them in a farmhouse or rustic setting helps add understated glam to a space.

Got some outdated trend colours from years past? Group them together and display in a guest room. SUPPLIED

Add a Punch

Wake up the predictable red-gold-green colour combination by adding a shot of cobalt blue or black to the room, it will give the colour scheme a sense of importance with the shot of darkness. A lot of dark brown entered Christmas decor a few years ago, stemming from the trends in home decor furniture. The brown feels a bit predictable, but when mixed with warm gold and a shot of fuchsia or purple, it can take us back to retro-Halston '70s.

Blown glass ornament: Grey ornaments help to create a sophisticated, cool vibe. URBANBARN.COM

Shades of Grey

Various neutral colours come and go in holiday decor — there's been taupe, black, sage and the ever popular cream colours. This year, look to inject a bit of inspiration coming from fashion. Grey is the new neutral and helps to make our homes take on a cool air of sophistication during the holidays. Team it with fresh greens, golds and citron for a punchy holiday decor. I suggest using this colour as an accent so not to over spend. Grey is the hot neutral this year, but most likely will not have longevity.

Finding the greenest Christmas tree

What's greener, a real or artificial Christmas tree?
-Minnie of Vancouver

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

If you're set on buying a real Christmas tree, consider cutting your own tree from lands that must be clear anyway — a win-win. ISTOCK IMAGES

Oh Christmas tree, oh Christmas tree, how green is your carbon footprint? The question about the greenest Christmas tree has been one of considerable debate among environmentally conscious merry-makers for the past decade.

Both sides have made valid points: advocates of artificial trees take issue with the practice of cutting down trees in the name of festivity, whereas proponents of real trees argue that it's pretty much impossible for a plastic alternative to be green.

The research team at Ellipsos has provided a definitive answer. In its study, the real tree emerges victorious.

According to Ellipsos, the artificial tree has three times more impact on climate change and resource depletion than the natural tree. That's assuming your artificial tree lasts six years. If your tree will last more than 20 years and if you'd have to drive a long way to buy a real tree, the opposite becomes true.

Regardless of whether you choose real or artificial, there are ways to make sure your evergreen is truly green:

Real Christmas Trees

1. Buy locally.
2. Choose trees from farms that minimize (or do without) pesticides and herbicides.
3. Cut your own with a provincial permit, from lands that must be kept clear anyway. In many provinces, hydro right-of-ways have to be kept clear. This is a win-win way to meet that mandate.

Artificial Christmas Trees

1. Avoid PVCs — the grinchiest of plastics — that most artificial trees are made of. Not only are these hard on the environment, they're bad for your health.
2. Make it last 20 years!

Should neither of these options live up to your desire for a truly sustainable celebration, consider a living Christmas tree. Potted evergreens are just as festive as their cut counterparts! And the recent appearance of rental companies dealing in potted evergreens makes this a hassle-free option even for folks who forgot to dig their tree a hole before the ground froze.

Next Thursday, we'll talk green strategies to decorate that green Christmas tree.

Have questions for the Queen of Green? Write to tpaglaro@davidsuzuki.org or tweet @DavidSuzukiQoG

Holidays

Time to get your dishes ready!

Dear Mr. Butler,
With both American Thanksgiving and Christmas on the horizon, what can I do to deal with some of my chipped antique dishes to get ready for the holidays?
-Signed, Holiday Lady

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Determine what kind of entertaining you will be doing this season before stocking up on inventory. ISTOCK IMAGES

What an organized woman you are. Good on you for thinking ahead.

First, you need to know how many people you will be entertaining over the holidays. Will you be having sit down meals or simpler cocktail party gatherings?

Once you know what kind of entertaining you will be doing and how many people you'll be hosting, look through your cupboards to see what you have and what you may want to use.

With your inventory in hand, you now need to find some retailers who specialize in selling single pieces of antique china.

Some cities have great antique markets. For the rest of us who either don't have these antique stores handy or can't find the pieces we need, there are some great online solutions.

I have found three companies that may be able to help you out, and I have used one of them in particular with great success.

The three most popular companies for china replacements are: replacements.com, chinalane.com and patternsearch.ca.

Remember, these are generally expensive. These sites are a great way to replace one or two broken items like a chipped coffee cup or cracked plate.

But if you plan to purchase an entire inventory, this is by far the most expensive route and one that I would not advise.

Here's a tip!

Remember, anything you have not used in the past year should have a quick wash with hot water and dish soap to get rid of any dust before you use it.

Black Friday madness may cost you your sanity: Is it worth all the hype?

Shop till you drop. Each year, more Canadians join the melee and flock to the States for the shopping extravaganza, and this time round The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us will join in north of the border

KATHY ULLYOTT
life@metronews.ca

Do you want to shop in this? Black Friday is one of the busiest shopping days in the U.S. and it's getting more popular in Canada with major retail stores joining in and offering bargains. GETTY IMAGES

Stampedes. Pepper-spray attacks on fellow shoppers. Store employees trampled, crushed and even killed.

Accounts of mall mayhem on Black Friday — the day after Thanksgiving in the U.S., when merchants offer deep discounts on everything from skis to sandwich grills — have become part of retail lore. And although such incidents are rare, midnight store openings, across-the-parking-lot lineups and unbelievable deals have become as iconic of American Thanksgiving as pumpkin pie and pilgrim outfits.

Each year, more Canadians join the Black Friday fray — the moniker reflects the fact that it puts retailers "in the black" for the year. Statistics Canada says 4.2 million Canadians travelled to the U.S. last November, presumably to shop. This year, stores in Canada, including The Bay, amazon.ca, Gap and Toys R Us are all trumpeting Black Friday specials.

Still, Sally Ritchie, vice president of communications and marketing for the Retail Council of Canada says Canadians aren't entranced with cross-border door-busting. "Our polling data shows that only six per cent of people in British Columbia and five per cent of Ontarians plan to travel to the U.S. for Black Friday," Ritchie says; 94 per cent of Canadians will be staying put.

So for most Canadians, it seems, the question isn't, "Where does the line start?," but, "What the heck?"

Well, obviously, there are the deals. "It can be thrilling to get a key item for a really good price," says Sarah Kutulakos, an American now living in Canada. "And there's the social aspect, the ritual. You have Thanksgiving dinner with family and friends, then you all get up early on Friday to go shopping." (Note: Kutulakos admits she doesn't go in for lining up herself.)

But more subtle psychology may be at work as well. Aparna Labroo, a consumer psychologist and the Patricia C. Ellison Professor of Marketing at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, points out that people want things more when they appear scarce. Deep discounts, offering those savings for a limited time and making only a few of those products available (to, say, the first 100 customers) are all ways retailers "manipulate scarcity cues" — in other words, motivate consumers.

Enough to pitch a tent in an overnight lineup? Maybe. "People actually infer value (of a product) from the effort they put into getting that product," says Labroo.

In other words, having to line up is — for some shoppers — not only not a deterrent, it's proof that what they want is worth lining up for. "The many people present, all waiting, can heighten the sense of scarcity."

And, apparently, the need for a $38 Blu-ray player.

Black Friday facts

- **Camping out.** Last year, a couple in Florida camped out on the sidewalk in front of a Best Buy for 12 days in order to be the first in line for Black Friday sales.
- **Buy Nothing Day.** Twenty years ago, Buy Nothing Day was created as an anti-consumerism alternative to Black Friday.
- **Holiday cheer?** Ninety per cent of Black Friday shoppers will be buying goods for themselves.
- **Online.** Sixteen per cent of Canadians will buy goods online from U.S. retailers on Black Friday.
- **Cyber Monday.** The term has become an international marketing term used by online retailers in the U.K., Portugal, Germany and Chile.
- **Turnout.** The National Retail Federation anticipates 134 million people will hit the stores this Thanksgiving weekend.

Decided to risk a Black Friday spree? Stay safe out there!

The Black Friday shopper's emergency first-aid kit

- **Rolls of gauze.** Extremely compact and light, yet strong enough to tie your trunk down, or a 42-inch television to the top of your car.
- **Adhesive bandages.** For credit-card blisters or paper cuts from coupons and flyers.
- **Finger splints.** Entering your debit-card PIN repeatedly can cause carpal tunnel syndrome.
- **Caffeine pills.** Sure, there might be a Tim's close enough for an emergency run, but do you really want to risk your place in line?
- **Acetaminophen.** Even if you're not headache-prone, loudspeaker announcements and other shoppers yelling at their kids/into their phones/at line-cutters can take a toll.
- **Scotch in a hip flask.** In case all else fails.

Want the deals without the lines? Cyber Monday is a stressless alternative. And with a smartphone, you don't need to be at a computer, or even at home, you can do your shopping on your morning commute. A few great apps:

- **Black Friday Shopping (blackfriday.com, free):** Get breaking Black-Friday ads, link directly to 1,200 top retailers and get cash-back coupons
- **My Christmas List (99 cents):** Plan gifts for everybody on your list; set and stick to a budget; keep track of spending; compare prices and share your lists
- **Price Check Guru (free):** Enter any item to find the lowest online price and connect directly to that retailer to buy
- **PayPal (free):** Get pay for your purchases immediately without having to enter your credit card info every time.

If you want to get out there and shop till you drop, best that you get the lowdown on survival. GETTY IMAGES

[1]LIMITED TIME OFFER. Offer valid on qualifying purchases of $20 CDN or more made between Nov. 21, 2012 and Dec. 5, 2012. 20x offer applies to the total base reward miles earned on qualifying purchase amount excluding shipping, duty and taxes. Base Offer may vary. Click on store logo on airmilesshops.ca for Offer details. Collectors must sign in at airmilesshops.ca before purchasing in order to earn reward miles. Offer can be combined with other Bonus reward miles Offers. Does not apply to purchases made at the following stores: Netflix or Rogers Magazine subscriptions (including *Chatelaine, Today's Parent* and *Maclean's).* All other stores are subject to change and may be withdrawn at any time. Reward miles will appear in your account within 120 days.

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Don't be fooled — not all doughnuts are created equal

Lemon doughnuts generally involve fried dough filled with sticky, tart-sweet yellow goo that tastes more of sugar than of serious lemon.

So here is a way to truly reinvent the lemon doughnut as a baked treat that is at once lighter and more deliciously lemony.

All you have to do is start with a golden cake-style baked doughnut, which is then flecked with the potent flavour of real lemon zest. You finish by topping the doughnuts with a simple powdered sugar-lemon juice glaze. The result is wonderful.

1. Heat the oven to 425 F.

2. Coat 2 doughnut pans with baking spray; you can use pans designed for either large or small doughnuts. A mini doughnut pan will bake more quickly.

3. In a medium bowl, use an electric mixer to beat together the butter, oil, packed brown sugar, granulated sugar, baking powder, baking soda, salt, vanilla extract and lemon zest. Beat in the eggs, one at a time, scraping the bowl between additions.

4. Stir in half the flour followed by half the buttermilk, then the remaining flour and finally the remaining buttermilk.

5. Spoon the batter into the prepared pans, filling the doughnut wells to about 1/4 inch from the top. If using a mini doughnut pan, you will need to bake in multiple batches.

6. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until golden and cooked through. Allow to cool in the pan for 10 minutes before turning out onto a rack.

7. To make the glaze, simply stir together the lemon juice and powdered sugar. Dip the tops of the doughnuts in the glaze and allow them to set or enjoy immediately.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ingredients

12 portions
Start to finish: 45 minutes

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, room temperature
- 1/4 cup vegetable or canola oil
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/3 cup granulated sugar
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- Zest of 1 lemon
- 2 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup buttermilk
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- 1 cup powdered sugar

Baked Lemon Doughnuts

These delicious doughnuts are baked. MATTHEW MEAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

Pick up, munch and repeat

Forget the fork and spoon, because the 100 desserts in Abigail Johnson Dodge's Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets can be devoured without. Dodge whisks together step-by-step baking instructions for a sweet-shop sampler of treats. No-fail recipes for sugary delights (along with delicious drizzles and favourite toppings) abound in this collection. Among the portable treats in Mini Treats & Hand-Held Sweets are Triple Threat Chocolate Squares, Toasted Coconut Snowball Cupcakes, Cinnamon Toast Scones, Frozen Chocolate Papaya Wedges and more. METRO

Sweet marries salty in Chocolate Caramel Squares

1. Preheat oven to 350 F (180 C). Line a 9-inch (23 cm) square baking pan with parchment paper, overlapping sides for easy removal.

2. In a medium bowl, combine flour and baking soda.

3. In a large bowl, using an electric mixer, beat butter and sugars until just combined. Add eggs and vanilla and mix until smooth. Add flour and baking soda and mix on low, until dough is formed. Stir in half of chocolate (150 g).

4. Bring caramel flavoured sauce to a boil over medium heat in a medium saucepan. Stir constantly, cook 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

5. Divide dough in half. Press half into prepared pan. Spread thickened caramel flavoured sauce over dough. Sprinkle with 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Drop remaining dough over caramel flavoured sauce and spread until covered.

6. Bake 30 minutes or until light golden brown. Melt reserved chocolate and pour evenly on top of bars. Sprinkle with remaining 1/2 tsp (2 ml) sea salt. Let cool. Cut into squares. NEWS CANADA/ ROBINHOOD.CA

This recipe makes 36 squares. NEWS CANADA

Ingredients

- 2 cups (500 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) butter, melted
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) brown sugar, packed
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) granulated sugar
- 2 eggs
- 2 tsp (10 ml) pure vanilla extract
- 10 oz (300 g) chopped swiss milk chocolate, divided
- 1 can (300 ml) dulce de leche caramel flavoured sauce
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sea salt, divided

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Cookie Dough Truffles. A delicious twist on tradition

1. Line baking sheets with parchment paper. Then, in a large bowl, cream butter and sugar together using an electric mixer until the mixture is light and fluffy, for about 1-2 minutes. Stir in the vanilla and then mix in the graham cracker crumbs, oats and salt. Once it's all combined, add in the sweetened condensed milk, mixing well. Lastly, stir in the chocolate chips

2. Freeze dough 30 minutes, or until firm. When ready, roll the dough into 1-inch (2.5 cm) balls and freeze 30 minutes, or until firm.

3. Dip cookie dough balls into melted chocolate to cover, allowing excess chocolate to drip off. Return to baking sheet and chill in refrigerator or freezer until set. Serve cold. NEWS CANADA/ ROBINHOOD.CA

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup (125 ml) butter, softened
- 3/5 cup (175 ml) brown sugar, packed
- 1 tsp (5 ml) pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/4 cups (300 ml) graham cracker crumbs
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) oats
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 can (300 ml) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 1/2 lbs (680 g) milk, white or dark chocolate, melted

DONATIONS AID THE COMMUNITY

SALVATION ARMY NEEDS YOUR HELP

For the past 130 years, the Salvation Army has been working towards meeting human needs and being a transforming influence in the communities of the world.

But it cannot do this without your help.

"There is currently an urgent need for clothing donations at the Salvation Army Thrift Store locations in Western Canada," says Scott Gilmore, spokesperson for the Salvation Army.

"Thrift Stores throughout the region are only able to function because of donations of new or gently-used clothing and housewares."

Your donations of gently-used items to the Salvation Army Thrift Stores is designed to be a win-win, providing needed items for the community at a nominal fee, while generating proceeds for Salvation Army programs.

In 2011-12, Canadians contributed more than $900,000 in vouchers for individuals and families in need to redeem for clothing and other items in a Salvation Army Thrift Store, and close to $3 million that supported Salvation Army programs and services including emergency relief and shelters for men, women and the homeless, community, family and single-parent support, work readiness and many more.

ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

With the largest pick-up and distribution system for a non-profit organization in Canada, the National Recycling Operations arm of the Salvation Army is breaking new ground in ways that not only provides a meaningful way for families and communities to support the good work of the Salvation Army, but also has many other benefits.

Gently-used items that are donated to the Salvation Army divert that product from going to the landfill.

There are cost savings to retailers who might otherwise be paying to lawfully dispose of damaged and defective products from their home.

And Thrift Stores give local businesses an opportunity to give back to the community, along with obtaining a tax receipt for their charitable donation.

The program called "Recycle for Good" is modelled for businesses to combine the philanthropic and environmental objectives of retailers simultaneously.

"By working together with retailers who know the benefits of building a strong community, we are excited about the possibilities that 'Recycle for Good' can bring to all who share in this endeavor," Gilmore says. "With your help, we continue to raise the bar with a relentless and unwavering commitment to the cause."

For donation information for the Salvation Army Thrift Stores, call 1-800-757-4483 (1-800-PLS-GIVE), or go to thriftstore.ca.

DONATION DESTINATION

Make the Salvation Army your donation destination.

Salvation Army Thrift Stores are in urgent need of gently-used items, especially clean, reusable clothing.

Simply fill any bag with items you wish to donate, then drop off the bag at your nearest Salvation Army Thrift Store.

The net proceeds go to support vital Salvation Army programs and services in your community.

THE SALVATION ARMY
THRIFT STORE
The Salvation Army Thrift Stores are in urgent need of your clothing donations this holiday season!
Your support helps make a difference in our neighbourhood!
Together in 2011-2012, we contributed across Canada
Close to $3 million that supported Salvation Army programs and services including emergency relief and shelters for men, women and the homeless, community, family and single parent support, work readiness and many more.
Steered 32 million pounds of household items away from local landfills driven through our Thrift Store recycling program
Call 1-800-757-4483 for donation information
Please place items in this bin
Clothing Donations

MAKING UP FOR LOST TIME

LEXUS UNVEILS REWORKED LINEUP

Lexus ES 350

Well, if what you get out of something is in direct proportion to what you put into it, then Lexus is about to reap some major rewards for a vastly reworked lineup, with two brand new models and a couple of others that have been beautifully updated for 2013.

This effort might come as a bit of a shock considering that Lexus and parent company Toyota were largely crippled during the aftermath of the 2011 earthquake and resulting tsunami that laid waste to Japan's coastal cities. Clearly, Lexus is making up for lost time, so the flurry of activity actually seems about right.

The Toyota Camry-based ES is Lexus's go-to entry-luxury model, even though the sportier IS is less expensive. In this league, size counts for plenty and the longer, wider and roomier ES beats the pants off the IS in the space race.

For 2013, interior volume has increased with the addition of nearly five centimetres between the front and rear wheels. Considerable sparkle has been added to what had been a design that for years was unnecessarily understated. The 268-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 and six-speed automatic transmission carry over virtually unchanged from the 2012 edition, but what's really new is the ES 300h hybrid with its 156-horsepower, 2.5-litre four-cylinder gas engine that combines with a 141-horsepower electric motor to generate 200 net horsepower.

The hybrid borrows its powertrain from the Toyota Camry hybrid and represents a natural extension of the ES brand, especially since the recent demise of the Toyota Prius-based HS 250h sedan. The new rear-drive GS is larger and priced significantly higher than the ES. It's also helping lead Lexus out of the design doldrums where, along with many of its stable mates, the car has resided for the past number of years. Nothing overly radical, mind you, since it shares many physical and mechanical components with its 2012 counterparts.

But front and rear revisions are obvious. Gone for 2013 is the V8 option, which leaves the GS 350 and its gasoline-electric hybrid GS 450h as the only available models.

The F Sport upgrade uses the same carryover 306-horsepower, 3.5-litre V6 as the standard GS 350. Both feature a six-speed automatic transmission, however an extra level on the standard driver-selectable operating mode has been added that firms up the suspension and sharpens the steering for an overall sportier feel. F Sport and the GS 450h are offered in rear-wheel-drive only.

– wheelbasemedia.com

BASE PRICES (INCL. DESTINATION)

CT 200H: Four-door hatchback hybrid: $32,900
ES 350: Mid-size sedan; $41,000
GS 350: Mid-size sedan; $53,200
IS 250: Compact sedan; $36,250
IS-F: Quick-and-fast compact sedan; $71,900
LS 460: Full-size sedan; $85,000
LS 600h L: Full-size sedan; $123,750

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NHLPA submits offer but sides 'still far apart'

Lockout. Union moves toward league in revenue sharing as talks resume in New York

The NHL and NHL Players' Association finally seem to be speaking the same language, but they still have a gap to bridge in negotiations on a collective bargaining agreement.

The union tabled a comprehensive proposal Wednesday that generated a tepid response from the NHL. However, commissioner Gary Bettman acknowledged the six-page offer was a step in the right direction and the document appeared to offer a path forward in talks, with the sides now envisioning the same type of economic system.

"There was some movement in our direction and it was appreciated," said Bettman. "We're still far apart. But hopefully there's some momentum so we can bring this to a conclusion."

The union proposed a 50-50 split of revenues during the five-year deal along with $393 million US in deferred make-whole payments throughout. Two weeks ago, the league offered $211 million and a 50-50 split.

NHLPA executive director Donald Fehr acknowledged that his constituents are anxious to end the lockout and indicated that the new offer is "about as good" as the players are willing to make.

"(The players) are suffering right along with the fans," said Fehr. "We made an enormous move in the owners' direction to try and end it — at least as of today that hasn't been successful."

Until now, the union had been pushing for a system that would see players paid a fixed amount of revenue each season rather than receiving a percentage of it. However, the new offer included some safeguards to ensure they'd be protected in the event league revenues stalled, including a clause that states the players' share can't drop from year to year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yet to be resolved

Contracts could still be sticking point

There is also ground to cover on contract issues.

The NHLPA offer included a rule that would punish teams who sign players to long-term, back-diving contracts — something the league has identified as an important issue. It also called for players making more than $1 million US in the minors to have their salary count against the cap.

The union chose not to adopt the NHL's proposed changes to unrestricted free agency, entry-level deals and salary arbitration.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos coach doesn't want players to score ... until game day

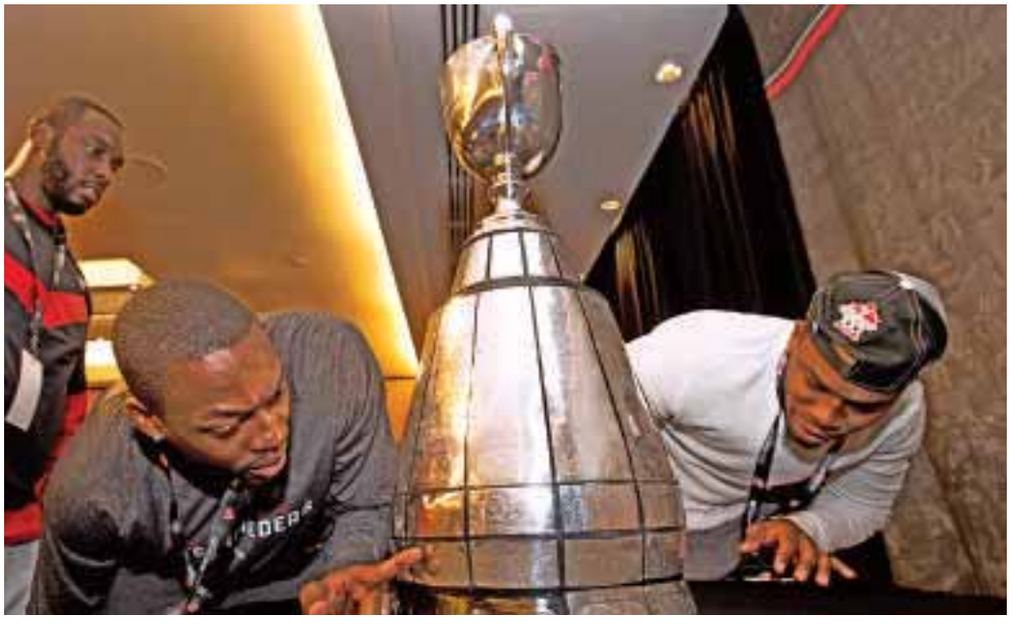
Scott Milanovich wants the Toronto Argonauts to control their libido during Grey Cup week.

The Argos rookie head coach says he doesn't want his players scoring off the field prior to the big game. Toronto takes on the Calgary Stampeders for the CFL championship Sunday at Rogers Centre.

But he also has a personal reason for taking this approach.

"I have two young daughters at home right now that are probably watching this press conference, so my take on it is going to be 'I believe in abstinence,'" Milanovich said Wednesday, answering what has become the traditional last question of the Grey Cup coaches' news conference.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Stampeders get acquainted with cup

Calgary Stampeders teammates Fred Bennett, left, and Chris Randle have a close look at the Grey Cup during the West Division champions media lunch in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Skiing. Alpine Canada looking for ways to include Vonn in men's race

The president of Alpine Canada hasn't given up on Lindsey Vonn racing men at Lake Louise, Alta.

The first time might not be in a World Cup race, though.

Lindsey Vonn GETTY IMAGES FILE

Max Gartner says he's been talking to Vonn's sponsor Red Bull.

"We're working on some plans, but we do hope this will happen down the road," Gartner said. "We do hope it will happen in Lake Louise.

Vonn asked FIS, the world governing body of skiing, if she could race in the men's World Cup downhill and super-G this weekend at Lake Louise. The reigning Olympic champion has 11 World Cup victories and 17 podiums in total.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Olympics

Trial set for alleged bottle thrower

A man accused of throwing a plastic bottle onto the track seconds before the men's 100-metre final at the London Olympics will go on trial in January.

Ashley Gill-Webb pleaded not guilty at Thames Magistrates Court on Wednesday to using threatening words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

The 34-year-old man was granted conditional bail and ordered to stand trial in east London on Jan. 3.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB. Buehrle gets in two cents on way out of Miami

Mark Buehrle issued a parting shot at Miami Marlins management after his stay with the team lasted only one tumultuous season.

The left-hander, who signed a four-year contract a year ago, was part of the blockbuster trade that also sent all-star shortstop Jose Reyes, right-hander Josh Johnson and two other players to the Toronto Blue Jays. With the deal, the Marlins pared $146.5 million US in future payroll.

"I'm upset with how things turned out in Miami," Buehrle said in a statement issued Wednesday through his agent, Jeff Berry. "But I'm putting it behind me and looking forward to moving on with my career."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Just like the fans in South Florida, I was lied to on multiple occasions."

New Blue Jays left-hander Mark Buehrle in a statement issued Wednesday

4 SPORTS

Grinnell's Jack Taylor goes to the basket during Tuesday's game, in which he scored 138 points in Grinnell, Iowa. CORY HALL/GRINNELL COLLEGE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'Sir Jack' talk of hoops world after 138-point game

NCAA. NBAers abuzz after 'video-game'-like outburst in Division III

How did Grinnell's Jack Taylor wind up with 138 points in a game?

Well, he did miss 56 shots, more than he made. And he didn't play for four minutes.

Otherwise he would have scored even more.

As it was, Taylor shattered the NCAA scoring record by 25 points Tuesday in the Pioneers' 179-104 victory over Faith Baptist Bible in Grinnell, Iowa.

Taylor hoisted a mind-boggling 108 shots, one every 20 seconds. Layups, fadeaways and three-pointers (27 of those) were all working in a display that had NBA royalty buzzing.

"It's like a video game," Carmelo Anthony said. "How can you shoot 108 times?"

LeBron James added: "It's unbelievable, honestly. There's two games that I would love to see: One was Wilt, when he had 100, and this kid, I want to see him, too. Sir Jack."

Wilt Chamberlin's record of 100 points scored in 1962 still stands as the NBA mark.

Taylor himself was still trying to catch his breath Wednesday.

"Honestly, it's still not settling in. It was hard to sleep," Taylor told The Associated Press.

Understandably so. Taylor is just a five-foot-10, 170-pound sophomore from Black River Falls, Wis. How did he score more points than anyone in college history?

Well, he had 58 at halftime. And then he scored 30 more in the first nine minutes of the second half, draining seven straight threes at one point.

The Division III record was the first to fall, as Taylor reached 91 points on a 25-footer from the left wing with 11:14 to go. He cracked 100 on a layup less than three minutes later, and with 4:42 to go he drained yet another three to pass the NCAA record of 113 set by Rio Grande's Bevo Francis against Hillsdale in 1954.

Taylor made 27 of 71 three-pointers and was 52 of 108 overall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Record-setting system

The three-pointer is the shot of choice at Grinnell and the four guys who don't shoot crash the boards.

- The Pioneers also press relentlessly on defence, forcing turnovers and quicker shots from opponents.
- The style also demands fresh legs and the Pioneers typically substitute every 60 seconds or so.

NBA

L.A. acting job costs Evans $5K

Brooklyn Nets forward Reggie Evans has become the first player to be fined for flopping by the NBA, penalized $5,000 US for a second offence.

Evans was punished after exaggerating light contact from the Lakers' Metta World Peace in Los Angeles on Tuesday night, nearly crashing into a referee standing along the sideline a few feet away.

Evans had received a warning for going down with little or no contact while battling for a rebound against Boston on Nov. 15.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nets forward Reggie Evans GETTY IMAGES FILE

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NFL

Gronkowski out Thursday for Pats

Patriots tight end Rob Gronkowski will miss Thursday night's game against the New York Jets, according to an injury report New England filed on Wednesday.

Gronkowski injured his left arm in Sunday's game against the Indianapolis Colts. The team has not specified the injury, though it has been reported as a broken arm that will take one to two months to heal.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Soccer

U.S. takes another shot at women's pro league

Another American women's soccer league will try to succeed where two previous attempts have failed.

The unnamed league will launch in the spring, U.S. Soccer announced on Wednesday. The clubs will be in Boston, Chicago, Kansas City, New Jersey, Portland, Seattle, western New York and Washington. WUSA folded in 2003 after three seasons and Women's Professional Soccer folded this year, also after three seasons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobcats claw their way to win over Raptors

Wednesday's game

Bobcats	Raptors
98	97

Ramon Sessions hit a 16-footer with 28 seconds left and the Charlotte Bobcats made a late defensive stand to beat the Toronto Raptors 98-97 Wednesday night for their fifth win in the past six games.

The Bobcats led by as many as 10 in the fourth quarter, but the Raptors took the lead after a late run.

Sessions made a jumper from just beyond the foul line that hit the rim twice before falling through to give the Bobcats the lead.

Toronto had four shots to win it, but two resulted in blocks and Andrea Bargnani's baseline jumper fell short as time expired.

Bargnani had 25 points and Jonas Valanciunas added 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Raptors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bobcats forward Michael Kidd-Gilchrist rises for a layup against the Raptors on Wednesday in Charlotte, N.C. CHUCK BURTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Flattery will come easily to you today but you must use it with care. Your way with words may be able to win others over to your side but do you really want everyone knowing what you are up to? Think about it.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If you need to connect with someone you have drifted apart from recently, now is the time to make your move. Don't wait for them to approach you, pick up the phone or knock on their door and say "Hi!"

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have been worrying for no good reason and what takes place over the next few days will remind you just how fortunate you truly are. Once your mind is in a better place, your physical health will improve as well.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Use your imagination and follow your dream, wherever it might lead. Some people may say you have taken leave of your senses, but more likely the opposite is true: You have at last found your true calling.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
The Sun in Sagittarius gives you bags of self-confidence and you must use it today to help a loved one or friend get over some kind of loss or trauma. The best way to do that is to make them laugh.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Don't try to keep your feelings to yourself. Let the whole world know why you are so full of love and laughter. Most likely it's because you have finally realized that life is supposed to be enjoyed, not dreaded.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is someone in your life you need to pay a lot more attention to. You know who this someone is and you know it is your responsibility to reach out to them. So what are you waiting for? Do it now.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
The Sun may have moved out of your birth sign but today Venus, planet of emotional and material values, moves in, which is not a bad swap. Who and what do you truly value? Make sure you don't lose them.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You feel good about yourself now but how do you feel about other people? You may have reason to believe that certain individuals don't deserve your friendship, but why make an issue of it? Forgive, forget and move on.

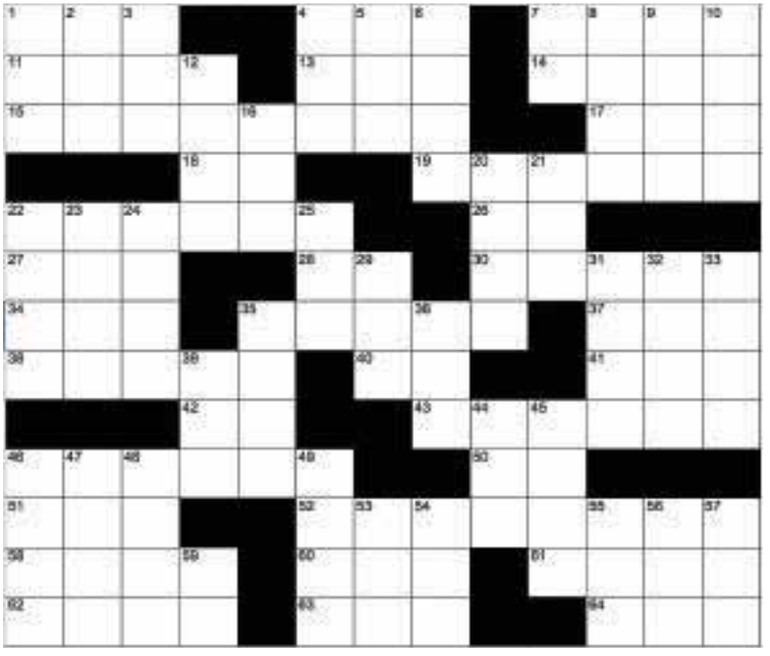
♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Give your mind and your body a rest today, and let others do the heavy lifting for a change. Friendships are under excellent stars now, so why not have fun with your friends? Laughter is always the best medicine.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Someone will ask you for advice today and you will be happy to give it, but do they really want to know the truth? If what you have to tell them is not what they want to hear, it could cause a falling out.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Steer clear of subjects and situations that could lead to conflict. That is especially important on the work front where, if you speak your mind, you could make a powerful enemy. Not everyone wants to hear the truth. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword

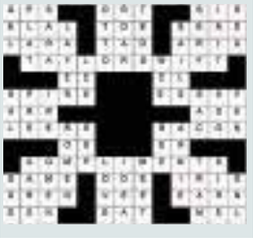
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Children's game
4. Decide on
7. Rich tasty dinner
11. Small inlets
13. Prefix meaning recent
14. Roof gutter
15. Spat
17. Cat or dog
18. Egyptian Sun God
19. Cattle
22. Moves slightly
26. Bible pt.
27. Danson of Cheers
28. Mate for Ma
30. Highway exits
34. Spanish cheer
35. AM or FM instrument
37. Served at Archie Bunker's Place
38. Fridge maker
40. Type measure
41. Meadow
42. Roman two
43. Basement
46. Fashion designer McCartney
50. First two vowels in a sequence
51. Blue Bloods actor Selleck
52. Microbes
58. Ticklish muppet
60. Pitcher's stat.
61. Vampire novelist: Anne —
62. Cruel or nasty
63. Served with crumpets
64. Actor James Van — Beek

Down
1. — la la
2. Atmosphere
3. Joke
4. — Tree Hill
5. Writing implement
6. Children
7. Wind direction (abbr.)
8. Pre-record
9. For always
10. Dampens
12. Ride the waves
16. Gymnastics equipment
20. Bull
21. Airport info.
22. Portico
23. Rudder
24. Brainstorm
25. Health club
29. Summer refreshment
31. Teen hangout
32. Beg
33. Brand
35. Method of transport
36. Company abbr.
39. Nothing
44. Sit down to a meal
45. Ogle
46. Flower part
47. Entice
48. Stone or Watson
49. Help in a robbery
53. — You Afraid of the Dark?
54. Canadian Automobile Association (abbr.)
55. Toss out
56. Drink cooler
57. — Lingus
59. "— Golden Pond"

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

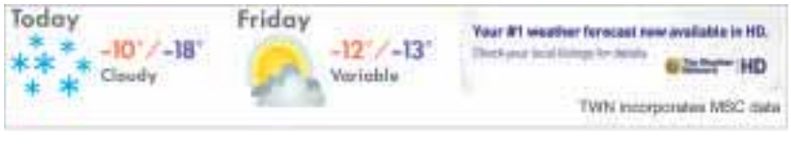
See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		4	6			1	9	
7						5		3
	6			8				7
	5				9	2		
			2		7			
		7	3				8	
3				9			1	
5		9						4
	7	8			1	9		

Yesterday's Sudoku



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